

State of Maryland



Board of Public Works

Annapolis, Maryland

June 22, 1970

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Secretary

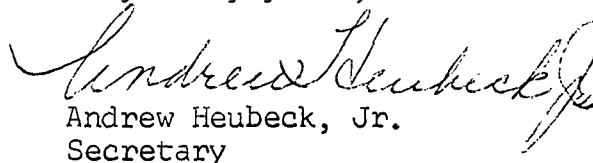
Mr. Kenneth N. Weaver, Director
Maryland Geological Survey
Latrobe Hall
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Dear Mr. Weaver:

We have your letter of June 16, 1970, enclosed with the claim by Mr. William B. Crum in the amount of \$99.75 for damages resulting from archeological excavations in an alfalfa field owned by Mr. Crum.

Claims for damages must be submitted to the General Assembly in the budget of the Board of Public Works and if the amount is appropriated, then they are paid. We would suggest in this case, however, that the word claim is not the proper definition, but rather it should be a contract, whereby you pay for the alfalfa growing in the field where the archeological excavations were conducted. In any event, we have sent a copy of your correspondence to the Attorney General of Maryland and perhaps he will rule that you bought 5,320 pounds of alfalfa for \$99.75.

Very truly yours,


Andrew Heubeck, Jr.
Secretary

AH:ble

MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LATROBE HALL, THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21218

C
O
P
Y

1 Nov 69

Mr. Fred Cook, Administrator
Frederick Metropolitan District and Sanitary Commission
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Mr. Cook:

We have opened a 20-foot-wide trench where we estimate the sewer line will cross the Indian site on the William Crum farm and we have found about 15 pits filled with Indian refuse as well as indications of Indian houses. If you have an opportunity to visit the site, we would be most pleased to show you what we are doing. I will be there Monday through Thursday of this coming week (3-6 Nov) and Mon. through Friday of the following week.

In order to complete our record of the investigation of the site, I would very much appreciate having a Xerox copy for our files of the letter which you received from Mr. Ridout of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Many thanks for your assistance in locating the position of the sewer line. Your cooperation has made it possible for us to record an important part of Maryland's prehistoric past which would otherwise be destroyed when the sewer line is built. I hope that you will keep us in mind if additional remains are encountered during construction.

Sincerely,

Tyler Bastian
Tyler Bastian
State Archeologist

15 Jun 70

Statement regarding crop damage
resulting from archeological investigations near Walkersville, Maryland.

Archeological excavations were undertaken in an alfalfa field owned and farmed by William B. Crum at Biggs Ford near Walkersville, Frederick County, Maryland, because the field contains an important late prehistoric Indian village site which will be damaged by construction of a large sewer line (the Monocacy Interceptor). Construction of the sewer line was planned for early in the spring of 1970 and our excavations were started in late October after the last harvest of 1969 so that no crop loss should have been caused which would not also have resulted from the sewer construction. However, the sewer line has been delayed until fall 1970 or later, and since alfalfa is a perennial harvested 4 times a year and not planted until August, the loss of the 1970 crops has been entirely due to our archeological investigations conducted last fall. The delay in sewer construction has allowed us to continue with the exceptionally extensive and productive archeological findings through mid-June of this year, but the additional work was still confined to the same area as last fall (the area to be actually destroyed by sewer construction) so that no damage was caused this spring that had not been inflicted last fall. Crop damage was unavoidable because of the nature of the crop, the uncertainty of the construction schedule, and the time required to carry out the archeological investigations.

Tyler Bastian

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

June 22, 1970

Honorable Francis B. Burch
Attorney General of Maryland
State Law Department
One Charles Center
Baltimore, Maryland

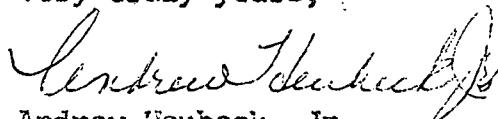
Dear Mr. Burch:

We are enclosing a copy of correspondence which we have received from Mr. Kenneth N. Weaver, Director of the Maryland Geological Survey. Mr. Weaver refers to a claim by Mr. William B. Crum, owner of an alfalfa field that was damaged as a result of archeological excavations. We are inclined to believe that this is not a claim against the State as we normally define claims. It occurs to me that the Maryland Geological Survey should agree to buy \$99.75 worth of alfalfa so that they could make their archeological survey.

So that there will be no difficulty when this matter is reviewed by the Legislative Auditor, we would appreciate it if you would review this correspondence and let us know whether or not we can advise Mr. Weaver to buy the alfalfa without calling in a claim for damages.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,



Andrew Heubeck, Jr.
Secretary

AH:ble

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Kenneth N. Weaver ✓

15 Jan 70

Mr. L. W. Wolfe
Wolfe Brothers Contractors
R.F.D. 1
Myersville, Md. 21773

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

I am writing in regard to your invoice of 13 Jan 70.

Completion of our archeological investigations on the Crum farm near Walkersville has been delayed until Spring when we will begin one or two weeks of work as soon as the ground thaws. If possible, we would like to make one payment at that time covering both the opening (last fall) and the filling of the trench. Your patience will be most appreciated.

Please note that we are tax exempt, #256.

Sincerely,

Tyler Bastian
State Archeologist

7 Jan 70

Mr. William Crum
Rt. 1
Walkersville, Md. 21793

Dear Bill, Barbara, and Kids,

Superintendent Mentzer of Catoctin Mountain Park just called me to say that you are having a little snow out there and that the meeting scheduled for tonight has been canceled. I had the sprinkler set out to drop by your place, and I also wanted to show you a map of the area we excavated on which I have plotted all the post molds and pits.

We washed most of the artifacts last week and are starting to catalog them now. By the time the meeting at Catoctin Park is rescheduled I should have some slides of artifacts that I can show, as well as a slide of the map. Washing the artifacts gave me a good look at them, so I am now excited about getting started on writing the report.

What do you think about leaving the trench open until early spring. Someone told me I should be able to do some more work out there during the "January thaw," but I have doubts about that. Perhaps the ground is already frozen too hard to fill the trench before spring. At any rate, I would like to complete my work in the area we have open as early as possible in the spring so that we can get the trench filled. I would like to spend at least 3 days at the site, but a maximum of 10 days. If you would rather not delay any longer, please let me know and I'll see that the trench is filled as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Tyler Bastian
State Archeologist

Crum - 1- 898-9937

Division of Archeology
16 Dec 74

Mr. William B. Crum
Route 3
Box 41
Walkersville, Maryland 21793

Dear Bill, Barbara, and all:

I have not started on my Christmas cards, but I wanted to answer your question about the mysterious letter that you received from the Maryland Historical Trust. Last summer the Trust hired Wayne Clark, a graduate student in anthropology at American University, to research and fill out National Register nomination forms for about 30 prehistoric and historic archeological sites in Maryland. With my help, representative sites (both excavated and unexcavated) from all sections of the state were selected, including Biggs Ford. Theoretically, Wayne or someone from the Trust should have contacted you before the nomination form was prepared, but I suspect that Wayne relied entirely on my records and did not actually visit the site. He was very pressed for time and had to cut some corners to get all of the forms completed before school started in the fall. The purpose of the National Register of Historic Places is to give some recognition and protection to significant historical and archeological sites. It is a federal program which is administered by the individual states. Most of the states, including Maryland, have focused attention on historic buildings, but recently the federal government has been pushing them to include more archeological sites. This summer's work is one result, and by next summer the Trust expects to have its own archeologist.

The policy of the National Register and of the Historical Trust is not to publish or make public the exact location of archeological sites in order to protect the sites from vandalism and to maintain the owners' privacy. However, federal laws require all federal agencies to consider sites listed on the National Register which may be endangered by any project involving federal funds or licenses. Catocin Furnace is an example. If your Indian site had been on the National Register in 1969 it is likely that the sewer line would have been rerouted since it undoubtedly involved federal funding. Unfortunately, I did not understand the law at that time, and the Trust was not much interested in Indian sites. National Register status for your site should protect it in the future from unwanted damage by projects involving federal funds. It will not prevent you from using the land as you wish, but I hope that you will not build townhouses on it!

I hope this explanation is of some help. I am also enclosing some literature that gives some additional information. The Historical Trust can provide you with additional literature and information. The Trust has a citizens committee in each county. The chairman of the Frederick County committee is Mrs. Robert Lebherz. I'll also be glad to try and answer any questions you have.

I seem to get busier and busier and get less and less done all the time. I'll try to stop by sometime in the spring. The saddest thing of all is that I have not made any progress on a report on the Biggs Ford site and it's obvious that I will not be finishing it soon. I have one full time assistant, but we are unable to keep up with the demands of the job. Additional funds and help do not appear likely in the near future.

Sincerely,

Tyler Bastian
State Archeologist

TB/nab
encs.

File - 1. McCoun Opinion File



THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

P. O. Box #1704

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21404

August 11, 1969

Mr. Frank J. Cook
Administrator
Frederick County Metropolitan Commission
Winchester Hall
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Cook:

We have given some time to checking out the property at Walkersville whereon an Indian Village is supposed to be located.

An inquiry at the department for Indian archeology at the Smithsonian Institution indicates that no known site is on record at the place. A visit to the site by our survey team in Frederick indicates the owner has no convincing evidence the village site exists, but has found some arrow heads there.

On the basis that no further evidence or substantial information of the village is offered, we feel that your project does not threaten a site of historical or architectural importance to the state.

Thank you for your inquiry.

An experience I might cite at Londontown Public House in Anne Arundel County where an historic port town existed, and where the county needed a sewage pumping station, was investigated. The trench, only 5½ feet in width, did not appear to disturb any archeological material. Preliminary test trenches were run along the actual line for only that vicinity where colonial settlement was believed to have existed, to a depth below plow-disturbed earth and at original undisturbed sub-soil.

No evidence was found in the area required for the line, and the reasonable care, interest, and caution was especially appreciated, and the concession to reasonable regard for historic or prehistoric evidence acknowledged. The owners and county officials were all satisfied that care and consideration by both parties had been achieved.

Sincerely,

Orlando Ridout IV

Orlando Ridout IV
Director

OR:ec

Miami, Missouri
65344
July 1, 1970.

Mr Tyler Bastion
Division of Archaeology
Maryland Archaeological Survey
John Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland.
21218

Dear Tyler:

George Metcalf has just written me saying that that a charred bow has been recovered at the Biggs Ford site. Can you give me any information on it?

My bow book is in press now and scheduled for release this fall. Whether I can make any additions at this late date remains to be seen, but I would appreciate any dope you can give me on this new find. Actually, there is very little first hand evidence on the aboriginal bows in your area so this find could be of great importance to my study. Webb recovered an Osage orange bow from a burial down in Louisiana, which is a long way from ~~Knoxville~~ Maryland.

As you probably know, the Museum of the Great Plains has apparently fallen on evil days. Tong is now at Bay City, Michigan and I have had to follow him to get continued sponsorship. My letters to Lawton went virtually unanswered.

Trust all goes well with you.

Sincerely,


T M Hamilton.

Division of Archeology
6 Jul 70

Mr. T. M. Hamilton
Rt. 1
Miami, Missouri 65344

Dear Ted:

It was a real pleasure to hear from you, and I am glad that you are interested in the "bow." I thought of calling you when we found it, but decided I would write you "later." The enclosed photos will give you some idea what it looks like. It consists of an alignment of small, elongated bits of charcoal. I suspect that the exterior had been charred or partly charred so we only have bits of the charred skin. One end was ~~neither~~ not preserved, or, more likely, destroyed before we realized what we had. Our excavation was rather sloppy so we had exposed the burial, recorded, and removed the bones before we found the points and realized what the "streak of charcoal" really was. Or, I should say probably is. The shape of the charcoal stain and its alignment with the points (10 of them) would seem to be a good case for calling it a bow, however. We removed the bow on a block of dirt (shown in one of the enclosed photos before jacketing), and it is now in my office. I have not tried further cleaning. In the photos about all you can see is the low pedestal on which the charcoal stain is isolated. Now that it has dried out, it is even less impressive. It has a max. width of ca. 4 cm., and is about 1.5 cm. wide on the narrow end.

The pit containing the burial was about 160 cm. in dia. at the orifice and expanding to about 190 cm. near the bottom. The pit extended 71 cm. below the base of the plow zone or about 100cm. below the ground surface. I do not know if the pit was especially dug to receive the burial, or if it was an abandoned storage pit used for the grave, but I suspect the latter.

The skeleton was an adult male, loosely flexed, lying on right side facing bow with knees near points and end of bow, and skull in vicinity and on one side of missing end of bow. Above and behind the head were a vasiform pipe of fine micaceous sandstone, 2 celts (diabase and slate(?)), 1 triangular point of rhyolite, lump of red ochre, broken and worn gorget (presumably an heirloom or pick-up), 2 cylindrical bone "punches," 2 antler tines, and bird claws. Also a beaver incisor and two bone fragments not yet identified. The points near the bow were of quartz (9) and gray chert (1).

There are several components at the Biggs Ford site, but no contact or European objects have been recovered. The burial with the bow is probably very late, perhaps between A.D. 1300 and 1550.

If I can provide you with additional information about the bow, site, etc., please let me know. You are welcome to use the material in your book, and would be glad to have you look at the specimen if you are out this way.

I am glad that Tong is still sponsoring your work. I hope that the museum in Lawton gets straightened out, but I fear that the Bay City museum may end up in the same mess now that they have Tong.

By the way, Jim Brown (MSU) wrote me last winter that he will be digging some exceptionally well-preserved contact graves near Bay City this summer. Maybe he will find a bow, too!

I understand that your book on guns is finally out, but I have not seen a copy.

Again, my appologies for not getting in contact with you sooner.

I am keeping busy here doing field work, and being an "expert" on all phases of Maryland archeology from pebble tools though tin cans and bottles.

Sincerely,

Tyler
Tyler Bastian
State Archeologist

P.S.

7 Jul 70

I note that I've given you much detail, but not some general info. that may mean more to you. Biggs Ford is located ~~near Walkersville~~ on the Monocacy River near Walkersville in the Frederick Valley of central Maryland. The Frederick Valley is sort of a transitional area between the Piedmont and Appalachian provinces, but strongest cultural ties of Biggs Ford are to the other limestone valleys of Va. and Pa. There are obvious cultural ties to the west, such as the Monongahela complexes. ~~Relationships to eastern Maryland, especially to the Coastal Plain, are weak.~~